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Descendant of Ford's Theater Owner Donates Materials on Lincoln's Assassination And 19th-Century Theater History

An important collection of theater materials has been given to the Library of Congress by John Ford Sollers, Sr., the grandson of John Thompson Ford, who was the owner of Ford's Theatre when President Abraham Lincoln was shot 122 years ago, on April 14, 1865. The gift includes a large collection of playbills, theater-lobby broadsides, scripts, scrapbooks, photographs, and letters—some relating to Lincoln's assassination and others from prominent figures in the 19th-century theatrical world.

John Thompson Ford

Most of the materials included in the gift are the only known copies of these items. In the opinion of historians in the Library's Manuscript Division, they constitute a unique archive for the study of the

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American theater in the 19th century.

The assassination of Lincoln and how it affected Ford and his theater are the topics of some of the letters in the collection. Ford himself was imprisoned shortly after Lincoln's death as a possible "co-conspirator," despite his having been in Richmond, Va., visiting family members at the time. One of the letters, written to his mother from Richmond and dated April 15, 1865, is full of family news but makes no mention of the events of the night before—undoubtedly because he was unaware of them. It concludes with the postscript, "Today is Saturday Annie's birthday fifteen years old tomorrow I am 36."

Other items in the collection are the pass that Ford was carrying, which permitted him to travel from Washington, D.C., to Richmond, as well as letters from his friends and business associates who were working to get him out of jail at the same time that they asked his advice on new engagements for his Baltimore theaters.

Ford was finally released at the end of May, after more than 30 days in prison, and fully exonerated of any complicity in the crime. However, his Ford's New Theatre was seized by the government and never reopened for business as a private theater. Congress eventually paid him $100,000, and the building was turned into government offices.

The collection includes 26 folders of subject files consisting of newspaper clippings, deeds, and financial papers, as well as some programs and tickets. The general correspondence files, covering the period from 1832 to 1894 (when Ford died), include letters from such nationally known individuals as Bret Harte and Edwin Booth, in addition to other persons prominent in the theater world. Printed materials in the collection include hundreds of playbooks, theater-lobby broadsides, and playbills for the Holliday Street Theatre and Ford's Grand Opera House in Baltimore, for the period 1856 to 1881; as well as theater-lobby broadsides for Ford's Athenaeum and Ford's New Theatre in Washington, D.C., from March 1862 to August 1864. A few scrapbooks and more than 100 photographs of actors and actresses of the time are also in the collection.

There are no restrictions on the use of the collection, and its materials may be consulted by interested persons in the Library's Manuscript Reading Room, located on the first floor of the James Madison Memorial Building.

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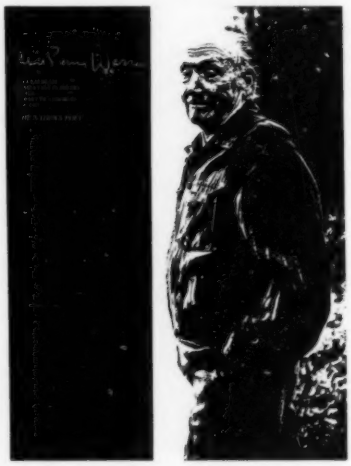
Comparable institutions and organizations in other countries may arrange to receive the *Bulletin* on an exchange basis by applying in writing to the Library's Exchange and Gift Division. All other correspondence should be addressed to the LC *Information Bulletin*, Information Office, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540.

Bruce Tapper, Editor

Library of Congress Issues Poster Honoring Robert Penn Warren



The Library of Congress has published a limited edition commemorative poster honoring the nation's first Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry, Robert Penn Warren.

The black-and-white poster measures 17″ x 22″ and displays a striking image of the poet and one of his poems, "Little Boy and Lost Shoe." The poster, printed on Hammermill white linen paper, also includes an enlarged facsimile of the poet's distinctive signature.

The Robert Penn Warren "Nation's Poet" poster is available in person at the sales and information counter in the Library's Thomas Jefferson Building, or by writing: Box A, Information Office, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540. The cost of the poster at the counter is $5, or by mail $7, with check payable to the Library of Congress.

Librarian of Congress Is Honored for His Support of the American Folklife Center

Librarian of Congress Daniel J. Boorstin (above left) receives a commemorative plate from William L. Kinney, Jr., editor and publisher of the *Marlboro Herald-Advocate* (Bennettsville, S.C.) on March 3, in recognition of his support of the Library's American Folklife Center. Mr. Kinney is the chairman of the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center, which was created in 1976 and has flourished during Dr. Boorstin's term at the Library of Congress. The Librarian has announced he will leave his post at the Library of Congress in June to devote himself full-time to writing and research.

Library Publishes Book on The Written Word in Japan

Multiple Meanings: The Written Word in Japan—Past, Present, and Future, a selection of papers on Japanese language and culture edited by J. Thomas Rimer, has just been published by the Library of Congress. The papers, generously illustrated with 18 color and 36 black-and-white pictures, were presented at two symposia sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and the Library's Asian Division. Dr. Rimer, who participated in both meetings, was chief of the Asian Division from 1983 to 1986.

Papers in the first part of the 111-page, clothbound publication were presented in 1984 at the symposium "Calligraphy and the Japanese Word," which was held in conjunction with the opening of a major exhibition titled "Words in Motion: Modern Japanese Calligraphy." Both the exhibition and the symposium were funded by the *Yomiuri Shimbun* newspaper of Tokyo, which also helped fund *Multiple Meanings.* Papers included in this first section are "Transmission and Transformation: Chinese Calligraphy and Japanese Calligraphy," by Yoshiaki Shimizu, professor of Japanese Art at Princeton University; "On the Art of Calligraphy," by Aoyama San'u, one of Japan's most distinguished calligraphers; and "Contemporary Japanese Calligraphy—Background and Ground," by Elizabeth ten Grotenhuis of the Japan Institute at Harvard University.

The second part of the volume consists of seven papers given at a 1979 symposium on "Japanese Literature in Translation." They deal with translating fiction, poetry, and the social sciences. The authors are Howard S. Hibbett of Harvard University, Phyllis I. Lyons of Northwestern University, Harold Wright of Antioch College, translator Hiroaki Sato, J. Thomas Rimer, who now teaches at the University of Maryland, Kazuo Sato of Rutgers University, and translator Tsutomu Kano. The final paper, "The Japanese Word and the Future," is by John W. Haeger, vice president for programs and planning at the Research Libraries Group, Stanford, Calif.

The book also contains contributions by Library of Congress staff members Shojo Honda, Philip Nagao, Hisao Matsumoto, and Key K. Kobayashi—all of the Japanese Section in the Asian Division—and Warren Tsuneishi, director of area studies, Research Services Department. John Y. Cole, director of the Library's Center for the Book, wrote the foreword.

The price of *Multiple Meanings* is $10 and may be purchased in person at the sales and information counter at the Library of Congress or ordered prepaid from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The stock number for this book, S/N 030-000-00180-0, should be cited in mail orders.

E. Christian Filstrup Is Named Chief of Overseas Operations

E. Christian Filstrup was named chief of the Overseas Operations Division, effective March 2.

Mr. Filstrup came to the Library of Congress in January 1985 to serve as the assistant chief of the Overseas Operations Division. Prior to that appointment he was the chief of the Oriental Division at the New York Public Library. From September 1975 to September 1978 he was the first assistant of the Oriental Division, a participant in the overseas programs of the Library of Congress.

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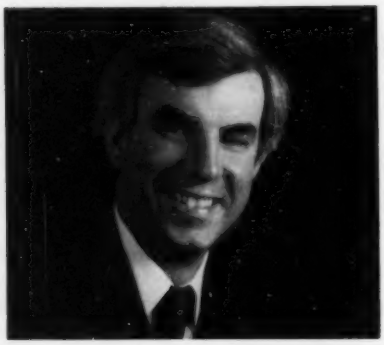
Filstrup *(Continued from p. 147)*



While assistant chief of the Overseas Operations Division, Mr. Filstrup was assigned to the Library's Cairo office as the field director from October 1985 through June 1986. Upon his return to Washington, D.C., he was named acting chief of the Overseas Operations Division. Mr. Filstrup received an outstanding performance evaluation in recognition of the significant improvements in the production of the Cairo office in the first half of 1986 and the considerable management skills and effectiveness which he demonstrated while serving as acting chief during the latter part of the year.

Mr. Filstrup is a graduate of Haverford College and received an M.A. degree in Middle East studies from Harvard University and an M.L.S. from Columbia University. He resides in Alexandria, Va., with his wife, Laurie, and two children, Burton and Emma.

Tibetan Buddhist Leader Fulfills Wish to Visit the Library

His Holiness, the Drikung Kyabgon Chetsang Rinpoche, the spiritual and temporal head of the Drikung Order, a major division within Tibetan Buddhism, led a delegation of followers on a visit to the Library of Congress on February 27, arranged through the Tibetan Meditation Center of Washington, D.C. His Holiness fulfilled a personal wish of many years to visit the Library of Congress, where numerous Tibetan treasures have been held in safekeeping since the 1930s.

Warren M. Tsuneishi, director for area studies, welcomed His Holiness, who inscribed the Library's official guest book with his blessing, "All the auspicious ornaments of the world which are collected here may remain forever as ornaments of the world" (translated from Tibetan).

In the photograph (lower left), Library staff members escort His Holiness on a private tour of the Library. Richard C. Howard, acting chief of the Asian Division (left), and Cathy Yang, senior descriptive cataloger, Chinese and Korean Languages Section, Descriptive Cataloging Division, gave the tour in Mandarin Chinese, showing the Great Hall to His Holiness and other members of his delegation.

At the end of his tour, His Holiness visited the Library's Chinese and Korean Section, where Wang Chi, section head, described a display of rare Tibetan manuscripts and books.

Manuscript Division Hosts Program for Archives Administration Group

Participants in the 58th Institute in Modern Archives Administration, held in Washington, D.C., spent February 4 at the Library of Congress in a program organized by the Manuscript Division.

Manuscript Division staff members who addressed the gathering were: James H. Hutson, chief, who welcomed the group; David Wigdor, assistant chief, who spoke on "History and Background of the Division, Acquisitions Policies and Procedures"; Richard B. Bickel, acting head, Preparation Section, on "Automation, Organization, Description, and Preservation of Manuscript Collections"; and Paul I. Chestnut, head, Reference and Reader Service Section, on "Reference Services in the Manuscript Division." Harriet Ostroff, editor, *The National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections,* and head of the Manuscripts Section, Special Materials Cataloging Division, spoke on the work of that section. An exhibit of representative items from the Manuscript Division's collections was prepared by John J. McDonough. The day concluded with tours of the division led by Michael McElderry, Janice E. Ruth, and Mary M. Wolfskill.

The institute is administered by the National

Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in cooperation with the Library of Congress. Approximately 40 archivists and curators participated in the 58th Institute, which was directed by Linda Henry of NARA.

Digital Recording Research Links Past to Future

Patrons of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS/BPH) may again be able to hear Alexander Scourby narrating *Archie and Mehitabel,* by Don Marquis, *Van Loon's Lives,* by Hendrik Willem Van Loon, and *The Age of Fighting Sail,* by C. S. Forester, as a result of a current NLS/BPH research and development project. These books, and others recorded onto 33⅓ rpm disks in the 1940s and 1950s, have deteriorated and have long been out of circulation to patrons.

Enhancement and reinstatement of older recordings is one possible outcome of an NLS/BPH study of digital recording techniques and their potential application to NLS/BPH products.

The research and development project is a two-year effort between NLS/BPH and two of its largest producers of recorded books, the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) and the American Printing House for the Blind (APH). The first year of the study was completed in December.

"The digital project is primarily to enable us to be ready for the future, if digital is indeed where the recording industry is going," said Henry Paris, chief of the NLS/BPH Materials Development Division. "It's an emerging technology that shows great promise, but right now it's too expensive for general application to recorded books. All our equipment and that of our contractors is currently for analog recording."

According to Mr. Paris, digital recording techniques select and encode discreet segments of the material recorded, using a mathematical formula to define a sampling frequency that is sufficient to reproduce perfectly. The process is in some ways similar to movies or TV pictures, in which a series of separate images blend visually into a continuous unit. Its major advantage over analog recording, which is a straightforward rendering of the whole narrative, is that it does not decay with use; master tapes can be used almost indefinitely for duplication.

The NLS/BPH project consists of three areas for investigation: (1) procedures for conversion of existing analog master tapes for permanent preservation; (2) possibilities for enhancement of older recordings to restore them for active use in the collections; and (3) evaluation, for potential production, of the merits of direct digital recording in the studio as compared with digital conversion of analog recordings. These three phases will become the basis of a long-term feasibility plan for applications of digital technology to the NLS/BPH program.

Current tapes. A digital process has been selected for the first area, using VHS format, 16-bit encoding, and 44.1 kiloherz sampling rate. A selected group of titles currently entering production have been chosen to test the conversion process. Mona Werner, head of the NLS/BPH Collection Development Section, identifies these titles as "what we perceive as the classics, or the basic works of tomorrow." Some are reissues that have been selected because their worth has already become established.

Older recordings. The second area involves assembling a variety of techniques or technological devices that can be used to enhance the sound quality of old, unusable talking books, particularly those recorded onto the disk instead of onto tape, and preparing digital master tapes of the restored books.

According to Mr. Paris, enhancement consists of recovering all possible remaining elements of the original narration—even sounds at the bottom or on the sides of grooves, parts of the record that have not been worn out through use. Mr. Paris says, "The results will vary, and recordings certainly won't meet current standards. But we could recover a lot that's valuable; if we do, digital techniques will enable us to save it."

Several books identified for enhancement have introductions read by the authors or were recorded by master narrators such as Alexander Scourby. Other titles are now out of print and the content, as well as the narration, is important for preservation.

APH has performed considerable study on possible enhancement processes and has demonstrated techniques in a video report. Standards for acceptable enhanced products are being discussed and prepared, and a full set of techniques, instructions, and standards will be determined within the next few months.

Direct digital recording. The study of this area is just beginning, and procedures will be compared with conversion techniques developed for the first area. Implementation is a long-range project that will depend largely on costs and on developments in the recording industry.

The first year of the digital study was devoted to identifying and evaluating a number of production possibilities, particularly in the first two areas of consideration, and determining those most appropriate for actual testing with NLS/BPH materials.

Approximately 80 books have been selected for digital conversion or for enhancement during the second

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Digital recordings *(Continued from p. 149)*
year of the project, and others will be identified as the work continues.

"Much of this research is looking toward the future," said Mr. Paris, "but we'll have these books to use now and to form a nucleus for a digital collection, if and when we need one."

An Era Ends as Hard Disks Are Phased Out

Production of rigid-disk books by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS/BPH) has been discontinued in favor of the less expensive and more versatile tape cassette format. These disk recordings have been an integral part of the talking-book program since the Library of Congress incorporated recorded materials into the service in 1934.

The concept of recorded books is as old as the invention of recorded sound. Thomas A. Edison's patent for the phonograph machine listed recording books for blind persons as one of the ten potential uses for his invention. Edison's "tinfoil phonograph," though, had to undergo many technological improvements before it became a viable medium. Emile Berliner's 1887 invention of the flat disk with its potential for mass production was another step forward. But it was not until the development of the 33⅓ rpm playing speed in the 1930s that a talking book became practical. The 33⅓ rpm speed, then used primarily for radio stations, allowed for more words per record than the standard 78 rpm records then in general use.

In 1934 legislation was passed to fund the production of recorded books, and the talking-book program was inaugurated with 27 titles distributed through 24 centers throughout the country. The first rigid-disk books included historical documents, such as the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, works by Shakespeare, and a variety of fiction.

At first, books were recorded directly onto heavy vinylite 12-inch disks. Each disk played for about 15 minutes per side, and an average book could be read by playing eight or nine disks. These were mailed in heavy containers that weighed up to 12 pounds. In some cases, multiple containers were necessary. A book such as *Gone with the Wind* was recorded on 80 records and required four containers.

Cumbersome as all this seems today, talking books were an enormous advance in access to reading materials by blind individuals. Rigid disks became popular with readers, and research and technical advances continued. Among the changes made was improvement of the durability of the disks to allow for easy shipment through the mail.

By 1937 approximately 145 books (116,700 containers) were distributed to patrons. Concurrently, the machine needed to play the records received attention. The talking-book reproducer, as it was first called, originally weighed 30 pounds and measured 15 inches square by 11 inches deep. There were controls that made possible variations in speed, tone, and volume, and it was available in either an electric-driven or hand-cranked model. The machine's playing needles had

A lacquer master disk of an NLS/BPH talking book being checked before mass production. (1969)

to be replaced each time a new side of the disk was played.

Almost all research for the first three decades of the talking-book program was devoted toward improvement of the original rigid-disk format and its playback machines. In the 1940s and 1950s, research resulted in changes such as the development of a permanent playing needle which was both less expensive and less cumbersome to use. New specifications were drawn up that helped rid the inner circle of the disks of distortion. Also, the groove of the disk was narrowed and the shape was modified. This change allowed an increase in the number of grooves per inch, which provided for more narration time per record. Direct recording onto the disk ended in the early 1950s, with the introduction of tapes for mastering. Further progress was made in 1958 when a slower recording speed of 16⅔ rpm was adopted for exclusive use of the talking-book program. This speed permitted twice as much material to be recorded on each disk. Equipment was manufactured to accommodate this new standard.

To facilitate ease of handling, storage, and mailing, all disks produced after 1963 were ten inches, rather than 12. An even slower recording speed of 8⅓ rpm

was introduced for talking books in 1968, allowing for up to 2½ hours of recording time per disk.

A new element was introduced in 1968, when a flexible-disk recording containing the issue's book announcements was bound into *Talking Book Topics*. The experimental recording proved very popular, and in 1982 use of the flexible disks began for other magazines in the program. This new format allowed for quick, direct circulation to readers. Research showed that the new format was sturdy and inexpensive, and it was clear that this and tape recording were the way of the future.

Even in the earliest days of the talking-book program, the Library of Congress investigated the possibility of using wire recordings in addition to rigid disks, but the magnetic wire was expensive and of poor quality.

As magnetic tape quality improved, the program began limited circulation of open-reel tapes. The master open-reel tapes were first circulated to libraries which then, in turn, duplicated them for local patrons. In 1961 patrons were provided with a list of open-reel titles they could borrow from the collection. A major problem though, with open-reel tapes, was the difficulty encountered with threading the tapes through the playback machine. The circulation of the tapes was intended only to supplement the disk program, but the problems with the tapes helped serve as an impetus for the development of cassettes.

In 1968 NLS/BPH conducted field tests using commercially available cassette machines operating at 1⅞ ips on two sides. The response was so enthusiastic that NLS/BPH added the first tape cassettes to the program shortly thereafter.

The greater portability of cassette players and the low cost at that time compared to the talking-book machines made them very attractive. It was possible to envision that the talking-book program would soon concentrate on cassettes rather than rigid disks and to focus research activities accordingly.

The cassettes now play at 15/16 ips and are recorded on four tracks, thus allowing up to six hours of recording time per cassette. The cassette-machines feature fast-rewind and fast-forward capability, end-of-tape sensors, a switch that allows the reader to select which of the four tracks should be played, an earphone jack, a variable speed control, and tone and volume controls.

The 1970s saw the development of accessories such as a solar power panel, a remote control switch, a pillow speaker, and extension levers that allow persons with poor manual dexterity to operate the cassette controls.

A study conducted in 1974 recommended the full conversion from rigid disks to cassettes and flexible disks. The gradual phaseout of rigid disks began in 1978 with the plan to decrease the number of titles produced on rigid disk and to reissue older disk titles onto cassettes, using the original tapes when possible and rerecording when tapes were not available or did not meet current standards. Some 200 to 300 titles per year have been reissued.

The last rigid-disk book is scheduled to be produced with the completion of the 1986 production contract, probably early this summer. Magazines will continue to be produced on flexible disks, as will bestsellers, which can be quickly produced on flexible disk and then later followed up with the tape cassette format.

While no new titles will be produced on rigid disks, books already produced in that format will remain in the collection for circulation for several years to come. Patrons who find the disk player preferable will continue to have disks available, but an easy cassette machine developed for NLS/BPH, with fewer controls and more automatic features than the standard cassette machine, is now available and is proving very popular.

Report from Meetings of Middle East Specialists

The Middle East Librarians Association (MELA) annual meeting took place at Harvard University on November 20, followed by the Middle East Studies Association on November 21–23. During the morning session of MELA the Middle Eastern Department of the Harvard College Library held an open house in which staff members discussed their work and various areas of expertise.

The afternoon program was devoted to the bibliography of Middle Eastern minorities. Fawzi Abdulrazak, Harvard's Arabic bibliographer, discussed the publishing history of the Turkomans of Iraq. Mr. Abdulrazak, an Iraqi Turkoman himself, stressed the importance of mining the various Turkoman serials for the publishing and literary history of the Turkomans. Another staff member of the Middle Eastern Department and granddaughter of a famous Iranian mullah, Shahla Haeri, surveyed the bibliographic sources for studying women in Iran. Edward Jajko, Middle East bibliographer at the Hoover Institute, gave an interesting sketch of the founding and flourishing of a Polish émigré enclave in Turkey near Istanbul. Cecile Panzer, librarian of the Truman Research Institute in Jerusalem, described her agency's efforts to create a database on the Druze. A final paper described the multidisciplinary problems of studying contemporary Turkish migration to Europe.

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After the program, David Partington, head of Harvard College Library's Middle East Department, led MELA members on a tour of the Middle East Center libraries and Semitic Museum. In celebration of Harvard's 350th anniversary, the latter mounted a splendid exhibit on the publishing history of *The Arabian Nights* in the Middle East and Europe.

In the evening, MELA held its business meeting. After elections, Chris Filstrup, chief of the Overseas Operations Division of the Library of Congress, reported on the Cairo office. He described the office's reorganization, its initial utilization of a microcomputer, changes in cataloging, and the expansion of acquisitions outside Egypt.

Sarah Ozturk, Turkish cataloger in the Descriptive Cataloging Division, reported on Library of Congress cataloging of Arabic, Armenian, Hebrew, Persian, and Turkish. She discussed the Library's plans to bring Hebrew and Arabic online via the Research Libraries Information Network, and the recent hiring of two Arabic catalogers.

John Eilts, who heads the Research Libraries Group's Hebrew- and Arabic-script program, guided the members through the intricacies of the bylaws of the Middle East Microform Program which MELA hopes the Center for Research Libraries will house and manage. And finally, Lesley Dukas, head of technical services at Sultan Qabus University Library in Oman, recounted efforts to create in two years a university library *ab ovo*. The library uses Dobis Libis, library software developed by IBM, to operate a circulation system and public access catalog of Roman-script materials. For its Arabic collection, the library will use Linguafile, an Arabic word processing package developed in England. Also attending the MELA meeting from the Library of Congress were Julian Witherell, chief, African and Middle Eastern Division; George Atiyeh, head, Near East Section; and Kay Ritchie, Arabic and Persian cataloger.

The Middle East Studies Association (MESA) held its 20th annual meeting November 21–23. Michael Albin, chief, Order Division, Library of Congress, chaired a panel on the Islamic book. Panelists gave presentations on the history of Kurdish publishing, 19th-century Moroccan lithographs, reading habits in 19th-century Turkey, and the printing history of a phantom 16th-century Venetian Koran. Much of the discussion centered on generating momentum for a disciplined study of the Islamic book both in its long manuscript period and in its more recent printed period. The consensus was that Middle Eastern specialists should follow the lead taken by European scholars in the socio-economic study of publishing and its place in the transmission of knowledge.

—E. Christian Filstrup

Update on Information Technology Is Subject of FLICC Program

Those who have been asking when CD-ROM, expert systems, the videodisk, and other new technologies will move into the library in a significant way will get some answers on May 8 at the Library of Congress. They will also be given the opportunity to sign up at this seminar—"Opportunities for Leadership in Information Technology through Cooperative Projects"—for possible participation in a cooperative project using each technology.

Samuel Waters, associate director of the National Agricultural Library (NAL), in announcing the program for this year's Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC) Information Technology Update stated that the Program Development Working Group of FLICC will offer to assist Federal participants in setting up a project under FLICC auspices.

An interests survey will be taken at the meeting. Non-Federal librarians and information center personnel who indicate an interest in participating in such a cooperative project will be given the names and addresses of other non-Federal librarians with similar interests.

Speakers include Jerry McFaul, U.S. Geological Survey, on CD-ROM and how it is being used in Federal libraries; Amy Glomm, American Management Systems, and Samuel Waters looking at expert systems, which provide computerized guidance to reference sources; and Marie Allen, National Archives and Records Administration, and Pamela Andre, NAL, on using text digitizing.

Betsy Parker, Library of Congress; Janis Morariu, University of Maryland; and Tom Tate, Department of Agriculture, will discuss interactive videodisks and their various uses.

Demonstrations of the above-mentioned technologies will take place in the afternoon.

The seminar will be held from 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Mumford Room of the James Madison Memorial Building. Advance reservations are not required, and there is no registration fee.

This year's Information Technlogy Update is being cosponsored by the District of Columbia Chapter of the Special Libraries Association.

STAFF NEWS

Online Users Group Presents Program On Visual Materials

Three staff members spoke to the Online Users Group about the online Visual Materials File last winter. The speakers were Richard Thaxter of the Special Materials Cataloging Division; Elisabeth Parker of the Prints and Photographs Division; and Harriet Harrison of the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division (M/B/RS).

Visual Materials, implemented in February 1986, is the MUMS application used for online creation and retrieval of bibliographic records for moving images and graphic materials. Richard Thaxter, providing an overview of the history of the file, emphasized the cooperative effort involved in planning and developing the online application. It was necessary to make major adjustments to the cataloging rules, resulting in two manuals to supplement AACR 2 by providing guidance for archival cataloging. In addition, a new MARC format, ultimately named the Visual Materials format, had to be developed to accommodate these materials. A third major area of effort concerned the development of specialized thesauri to meet the unique needs for access to these materials.

Visual Materials file records can be retrieved with MUMS searches, and are identified by the display constant [A/V] in the header of the full record display; MUMS searches may be restricted to the Visual Materials file by using the file qualifier ;f = av.

By far, the majority of records in the Visual Materials file represent audiovisual materials. Audiovisual materials have been cataloged at the Library for about 30 years, and machine-readable cataloging records for them have been created since 1972. Implementation of the Visual Materials file involved loading the existing database of approximately 70,000 records into the online file. For most of these, the legend "NOT IN LC" displays in the call number line in MUMS brief record displays; some, however, are actually in the Library of Congress collection, and it is planned that at a future date M/B/RS will modify the records to reflect the true status of items in the Library.

Elisabeth Parker discussed the second category of records found in the Visual Materials file, those representing original and historical still images in the Prints and Photographs Division. The division's holdings cover a wide range of periods and subjects, and include original photographs and negatives, fine prints, historical prints and ephemera, posters, and artistic, documentary, and architectural drawings. The Prints and Photographs Division is responsible for all aspects of physical processing and cataloging of such items, which at present number about 12 million. For the first time, catalog records for some of this material can be accessed outside of the Prints and Photographs Division Reading Room.

Ms. Parker described some of the ways in which graphic materials cataloging differs from monographic cataloging. Perhaps most notable are the amount of discretion the cataloger has in determining what will constitute a "work," and the lengthy research and analysis usually necessary to produce a single record. One record may represent a single item, or a group of related items, depending on the material. The vast majority of the division's holdings are photographs, which can be cataloged most effectively in groups. So far, only records for photographs are being included in the Visual Materials file. The descriptive cataloging is done according to *Graphic Materials: Rules for Describing Original Items and Historical Collections;* topical headings for access points are taken from the *LC Thesaurus for Graphic Materials,* due to be published by the Cataloging Distribution Service (CDS) in 1987. Proper names used as access points are drawn from the Library of Congress authority files. Controlled vocabulary for the MARC 635 and 755 fields comes from *Descriptive Terms for Graphic Materials: Genre and Physical Characteristic Headings,* now available from CDS.

Records for graphic materials will be distributed for the first time through the MARC Distribution Service early in 1987, the primary intention of which is to share information about the Library's holdings and make available authority data about creators and subjects of graphic materials. It is anticipated that between 100 and 200 graphic materials records will be added to the Visual Materials file each year.

Motion picture cataloging constitutes the third category of records included in the Visual Materials file. Harriet Harrison described the function of M/B/RS in collecting, preserving, and making available a representative sampling of our heritage in moving images and recorded sound. Cataloging the collections presents physical problems (the materials are both expensive and fragile), as well as intellectual ones (materials are oral and visual, requiring the cataloger to translate into the written word). Moreover, descriptive cataloging rules for monographic materials have not provided solutions for many characteristics of motion picture materials, whose frequently unique variations and differing release and distribution practices were not taken into account by existing

STAFF NEWS

cataloging guidelines for books.

The International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF) developed standards and broad guidelines to deal with these problems. Cataloging records for motion pictures provide the following kinds of data: (1) bibliographic data—who created it, and when; (2) technical data—what are the physical characteristics of the item; (3) subject content; and (4) archival information—when did the item come into the Library's collection, what restrictions have been placed on its use, etc. M/B/RS developed these FIAF guidelines and principles into a set of descriptive cataloging rules, merging them with ISBD and Chapter 7 of AACR 2. The resultant publication, *Archival Moving Image Materials: A Cataloging Manual,* is used by M/B/RS for the descriptive cataloging of the Library's moving image collections. Ms. Harrison showed several early films to illustrate the process of research and analysis essential to producing a film cataloging record.

Staff Activities

Eilene Galloway, former senior specialist in international relations, Congressional Research Service, was invited by the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada, to give a lecture, January 29, on the topic, "The United States Space Program: National and International." She was also interviewed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation on the history of the space program during its early days, in 1958–59.

James Gilreath, American history specialist in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division, was the guest speaker at the 122nd annual dinner meeting of the Lincoln Association of Jersey City, N.J., on February 12. His topic was "The Library of Congress and the Emancipation of Abraham Lincoln." He also spoke to the Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia on January 20 and to the Lincoln Group of New York City on November 13.

George E. Glos, assistant chief in the European Law Division, delivered a lecture on November 13, before students in the Department of Government at George Washington University. Dr. Glos spoke on the act of state doctrine in view of the decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Brent L. Kendrick, training coordinator, Copyright Office, was a guest colloquium speaker at the College of Library Science, Clarion University of Pennsylvania, on February 5. His topic was "Information Brokering: Career Alternatives in Librarianship." During the one-hour lecture attended by both graduate and undergraduate students interested in librarianship, Dr. Kendrick provided an overview of the fee-based information industry, highlighted his own experiences as a part-time information broker, and concluded with practical advice for those students interested in establishing their own fee-based service.

William R. Nugent, assistant director, Automated Systems Office, was an invited speaker at Electronic Imaging West 87, a conference and exposition held in Anaheim, Calif., on February 16–19. The conference was organized by the Institute for Graphic Communication and focused on topics in electronic scanning, storage, and processing of image information. Mr. Nugent described the principles, methods, and early results of accelerated aging of optical disks, which is the initial work of the Library's new Optical Storage Testing and Preservation Laboratory. This work is aimed at determining the expected longevity of optical disks in use by the Library, which include digital optical disks, videodisks, compact disks of digitized audio, and CD-ROMs. Subsequent tasks will include investigation of failure mechanisms and means of preserving information on this medium.

Donald G. Shomette, visual information specialist, Printing and Processing Section, served as project director and principal investigator in the first entirely robotic underwater archaeological survey of an historical shipwreck site, between February 8 and February 28. The three-week-long, $300,000 survey, organized by Shomette and based at Solomons, Md., was jointly sponsored by the National Geographic Society and the Maryland Geological Survey, with major logistical, technical, and financial support from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Navy, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, the University of Baltimore, the Maryland Historical Trust, the Calvert Marine Museum, Datasonics, Inc., the Applied Sonics Corporation, and Sea Colony Aqua Sports. Using three remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) provided by National Geographic and Deep Sea Systems International, Inc., as well as a wide range of ultrasonic and electronic ranging and positioning systems, researchers surveyed three shipwrecks. These were the steamboat *New Jersey* lost in Chesapeake Bay in 1870, and two late-19th-century schooners, the

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Henrietta Bach and the *Dashaway,* abandoned and sunk in St. Leonards Creek, Md.

Elizabeth F. Stroup, director for general reference, spent the month of February in Indonesia at the request of the U.S. Information Service, where she visited more than 20 libraries in Java and Sumatra and conducted a week-long workshop on reference tools and techniques for 35 Indonesian librarians at the new American Cultural Center in Jakarta. She testified before a committee of the Indonesian Parliament on the work of the Congressional Research Service, lectured at the University of Indonesia, and participated in a seminar at the Indonesian Center for Scientific Documentation and Information (PDII) on "Special Services to Policymakers in Science and Technology." Ms. Stroup presented information prepared by the National Preservation Program Office at the Library of Congress to the new National Library of Indonesia and delivered material from the U.S. National Agricultural Library to the Library for Agricultural Sciences in Bogor. The principal focus of the trip, however, was to consult with staff of the Center for Library Development on ways of strengthening reference services in the 27 regional public libraries located in Indonesia's provincial capitals.

John A. Wolter, chief, Geography and Map Division, presented an illustrated lecture, "Records of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey in the Library of Congress," in Rockville, Md., on February 26, at The Symposium on the 180th Anniversary of the Survey of the Coast, sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. He described several of the rare and valuable cartographic collections and items which have been transferred to or deposited in the Library since 1897 by the U.S. Coast Survey and its successors, the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey and the National Ocean Service.

Pauline Bollenbacher Dies
Former Staff Officer at NLS/BPH

Word has been received of the death on January 5 of Pauline Reed Bollenbacher, a member of the staff of the Library of Congress from 1945 to 1966. She died in Denver, Colo. During her entire tenure with the Library, Mrs. Bollenbacher worked in the Library's program for the blind and physically handicapped (the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped—NLS/BPH), and was honored upon her retirement for 21 years of outstanding service.

Mrs. Bollenbacher's career with the Federal government progressed through a series of promotions from her appointment as editorial clerk in the Library's Books for the Adult Blind Division to head of Selections and Publications. Blind readers throughout the country sent letters of appreciation, and further recognition for Mrs. Bollenbacher's meritorious Federal government employment included three Outstanding Performance Ratings and a cash award citing her "continued achievements in judging soundly, deciding wisely, and constantly remaining attuned to changing conditions."

Mrs. Bollenbacher was born October 23, 1897, in Bloomington, Ind. A graduate of Indiana University and a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, she served for three years in the Indiana University Libraries after the death of her husband in 1942. She returned to her birthplace in 1983, where she was a resident of Meadowood Retirement Community.

Her survivors include one son, John Bollenbacher, of Denver, two granddaughters, and nieces and nephews. Private family services were held at Rose Hill Cemetery.

Meetings and Events Around the Library

Thursday, April 23

☐ Bluegrass concert, Hobbs and Partners. American Folklife Center. Neptune Plaza, noon to 1:30 p.m. Free; no tickets are required.

☐ "Performance Evaluations: Friend or Foe," Cynthia Johansen, assistant chief, MARC Editorial. Special Interest Group (SIG) on Management. LC Professional Association (LCPA), Room LM 403, 12:10 p.m. **For members and staff.**

Friday, April 24

☐ Concert, Milton Babbitt 70th birthday celebration. Coolidge Auditorium, 8 p.m. Free; no tickets are required.

Saturday, April 25

☐ Bell'Arte Trio. Coolidge Auditorium, 5:30 p.m. Free; no tickets are required.

Tuesday, April 28

☐ Lecture by Sarah Pritchard, General Reading Rooms, on special collections in the Library for the study of American women. SIG on American Studies and Special Collections, LCPA. Room LM 642, 12:10 p.m. **For members and staff.**

☐ Poet Daniel M. Epstein reads from his work. Coolidge Auditorium, 8 p.m. No tickets required.

Friday, May 1

☐ Danish illustrator, Erik Blegvad, speaks on Hans Christian Andersen from an artist's point of view. International Children's Book Day. Children's Literature Center. Mumford Room, 7:30 p.m. Free; reservations advised, call (202) 287-5218.

Saturday, May 2

☐ "Hans Christian Andersen," film starring Danny Kaye. International Children's Book Day. Mumford Room, 4 p.m. Free; reservations advised, call (202) 287-5218.

☐ Parnassus; Anthony Korf, conductor. Festival of American Chamber Music. Coolidge Auditorium, 8 p.m.

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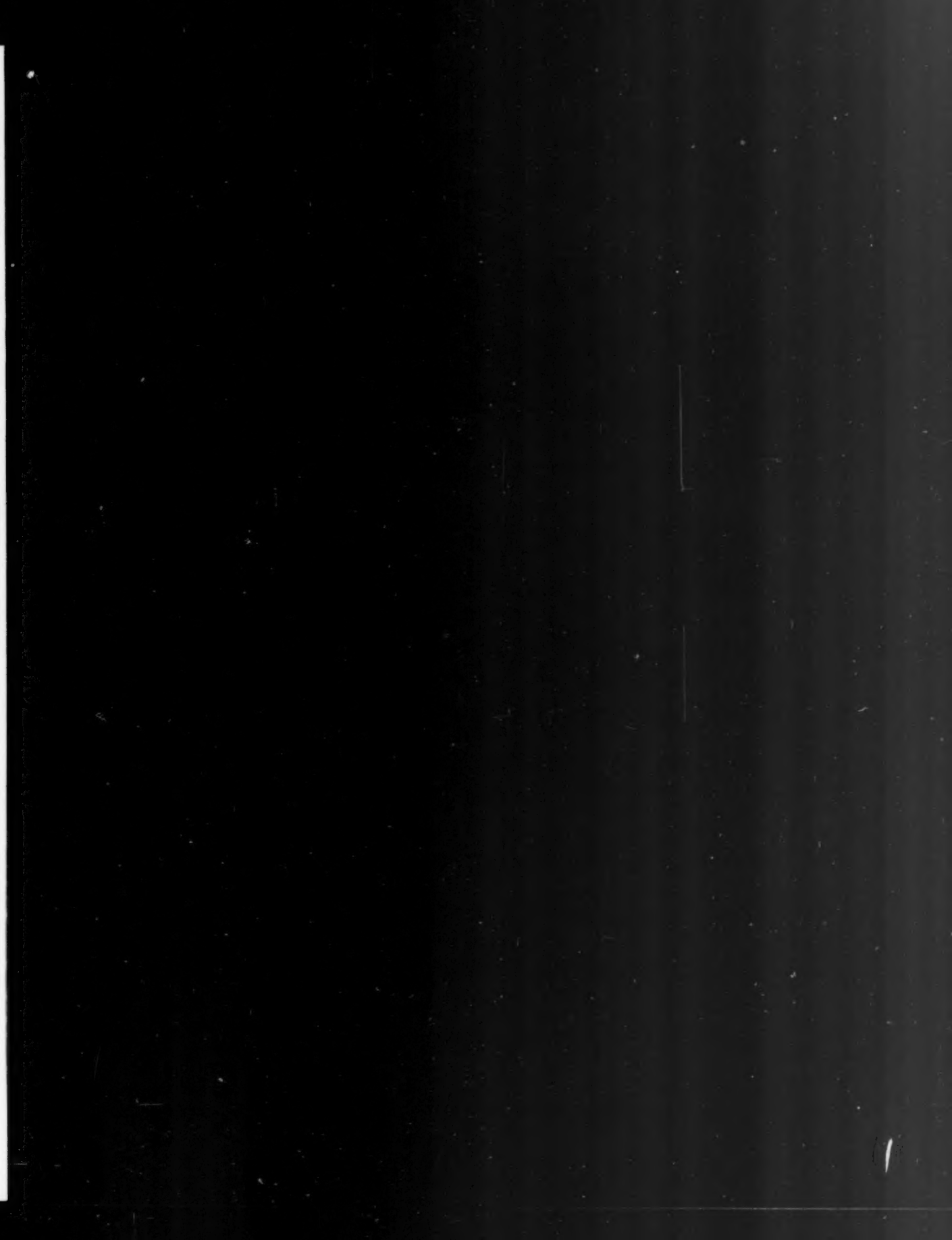
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